

Application No.: 09/753,764
Amendment dated: October 28, 2004
Reply to Advisory Action of: October 6, 2004

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-22 are pending in the application. Claims 1, 10, and 19 were amended.

In amended Figures 2 and 3, the “hop-over” lines (line weights) have been clarified in order to comply with the Examiner’s request. Figure 4 has been amended to comply with the Examiners request.

Claims 1, 10, and 19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Claims 1-4, 9-13, and 18-21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(a) as being anticipated by what the Examiner indicates as “applicant’s admitted prior art” (hereinafter “AAPA”). Claims 5-8, 14-17 and 22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over AAPA.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §112

Claims 1, 10, 19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Claims 1, 10, 19 have been amended to overcome this rejection.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §102(a)

Claims 1-4, 9-13, and 18-21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(a) as being anticipated by AAPA. AAPA does not teach or suggest a first storage element dedicated to the

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first multiplexer and a second storage element dedicated to the second multiplexer, as claimed in claims 1, 10, and 19 as amended. The storage elements of the AAPA feed into both the first multiplexer and the second multiplexer. Claims 2-4, 9, 11-13, 18, and 20-21 depend from claims 1, 10, and claim 19, respectively. Accordingly reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1-4, 9-13, and 18-21 under 35 U.S.C. §102(a) is respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 5-8, 14-17 and 22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over AAPA. As stated above, elements of claims 1, 10, and 19 are neither shown nor suggested by AAPA. Claims 5-8, 14-17 and 22 depend from claims 1, 10, and 19, respectively. Accordingly reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 5-8, 14-17 and 22 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) is respectfully requested.

Accordingly reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 9 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) is respectfully requested.

For all the above reasons, the Applicant respectfully submits that this application is in condition for allowance. A Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees or credit any overpayments under 37 C.F.R. §1.16 or §1.17 to Deposit Account No. **11-0600**.

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The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at (408) 975-7500 to discuss any matter concerning this application.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: October 28, 2004

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AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

The attached sheets of drawings include changes to Figures 2, 3 and 4. Figures 2 and 3 were amended by lightening the line weights to improve clarity. Figure 4 was amended to comply with the Examiners side note (C) by labeling a "No" --N-- path of decisional block 436.

The four (4) pages of replacement drawings include Figures 1-4 and are to replace the originally submitted drawings which accompanied the subject patent application at the time of filing.

Attachment: Replacement Sheets
Annotated Sheets Showing Changes

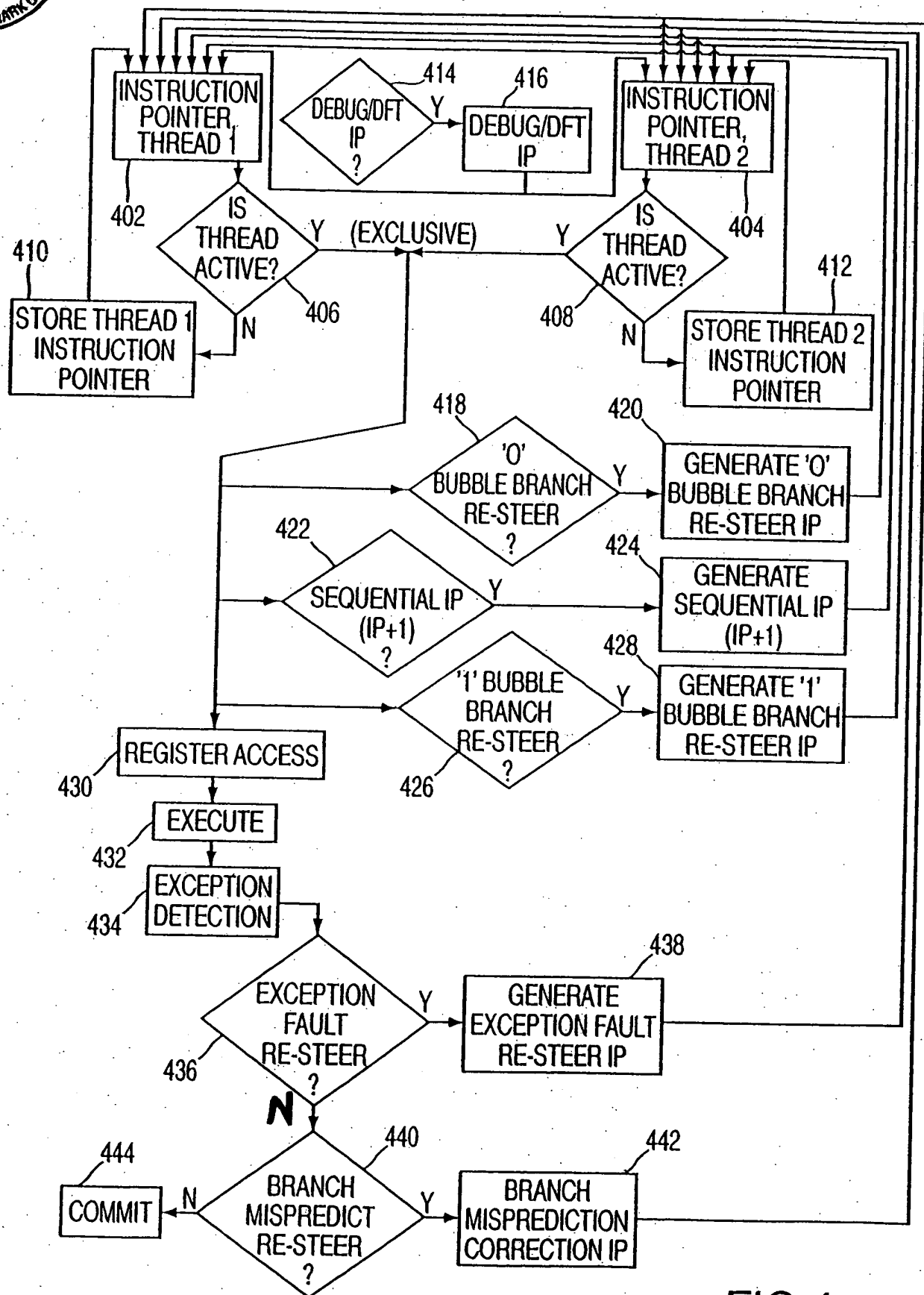


FIG.4